Drop-out rate in muslim children

*94. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of the 13.5 million drop-out children, are Muslims;

(b) Government's reaction to this high drop-out rate in Muslim children;

(c) whether it is a fact that 30 per cent of all Muslim children in Bihar are out of school totally; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to remedy this situation?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) Religion wise educaitonal statistics is not being collected by the Ministry. However, as per a National Sample Survey conducted by an independent agency, the Social & Rural Research Institute-International Marketing Research Bureau at the behest of the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy, Government of India, in July-October 2005, of the total children in the 6-14 age group in India, only 1.34 crore were estimated to be out of school, which is 6.94%. Amongst them, 22.5 lakhs were Muslim children which constitutes 9.97 per cent of the total number of Muslim Children in the 6-14 years age cohort. Of these, 6.23 lakhs children were in Bihar.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme and Madarsa Modernization Programme, are some of the schemes beign implemented by the Government to improve the educational status of the Muslim children.

Suggestions of New Minning Policy

†*95. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating on formulating a New Mining Policy; .

(b) if so, by when the same would be implemented,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have received any suggestions regarding royalty etc. in the New Mining Policy from political parties and other organisations of various States;

(d) if so, the detials thereof; and

(e) the details of the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) National Mineral Policy, 2007 is under consideration of the Government.

(c) to (e) Government have received suggestions from different Governments and organisations on vairous parameters having bearing on mineral policy. The National Mineral Policy, 2007 being framed after deliberation on the suggestions is under consideration of the Government.

Proposal for Arctic expedition

*96. SHRI DEV DAS APTE: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning for the Arctic expedition to research on the climate change with other team;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total budget allocation for this purpose;

(d) the key areas on which this expedition will concentrate; and

(e) by when-lndia would be able to send its first Arctic expedition on its own?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Minsitry of Earth Sciences through National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR), Goa, an autonomous institute under this Ministry has proposed a research programme for the Arctic region during the Eleventh Five Year Plan starting in 2007, coinciding with International Polar Year (IPY). This is being worked out in collaboraiton with Norwegian Polar Research Institute, for Indian Scientists to carry out research in Svalbard region, where an internaitonal research facility exists in Ny-Alesund. Ministry of Earth Sciences has proposed a new research scheme 'Expedition to Arctic' during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, for which a token amount of Rs. 1.00 crore has been provided for the next financial year.